

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
4 BOLTWOOD AVENUE
AMHERST, MA 01002

SELECT BOARD
Phone (413) 259-3001
FAX (413) 259-2405

Email: selectboard@amherstma.gov

PROCLAMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Whereas, the General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with no dissenting vote, on December 10th, 1948, under the able leadership of an American, Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt; and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration asserts the dignity of the human person; non-discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, language, religion, political opinion, nationality, social origin, property, birth, or other status [such as disability, sexual orientation, or medical condition]; civil and political rights, such as freedoms of thought, speech, belief, and the press; economic, social, and cultural rights, such as rights to employment, food, shelter, and health care; the solidarity of the human race; the notion that every right has a corresponding duty; and the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration is referred to as the authoritative definition of human rights standards and increasingly referred to as customary international law, which all countries must abide; and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration gave birth to a long train of other declarations and covenants further defining human rights standards, such as the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which have the status of treaty and are to be considered "Law of the Land" in accordance with the Supremacy Clause, of the US Constitution, Article VI(2); and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration avows legal mandates to fulfill human need,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Select Board of the Town of Amherst, does hereby proclaim

December 10, 2009 as

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

In Amherst and the Select Board encourages all Amherst citizens and residents to be mindful of human rights principles and urges all municipal, state, federal, and international bodies to incorporate said principles into their laws and policies as a means to move toward the creation of a human rights culture which is a "lived awareness" of human rights principles.

Voted and signed this 23rd day of November 2009.

